

NASBE Adolescent Literacy Network

The National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) State Adolescent Literacy Network, with financial support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, has provided funding to five states, including Kentucky, to guide state leadership efforts in crafting comprehensive state literacy initiatives that address literacy instruction in core academic subjects as a part of the states' overall school improvement initiatives.

The Department of Education partnered with the Kentucky Board of Education and the Kentucky Reading Association (KRA) to develop Kentucky's NASBE grant application. The primary goals of the funded proposal are to:

1. Develop an Adolescent Literacy Taskforce charged with developing a statewide Adolescent Literacy Plan.
2. Develop a position statement for stakeholder groups, as well as a compilation of resources and model programs to build knowledge and create interest in advocating for change.
3. Enhance teacher preparation and certification by requiring courses in literacy and creating a literacy coach/teacher leader endorsement.
4. Design and implement professional development opportunities for schools based on existing programs and models (e.g., Striving Readers, the Adolescent Literacy Coaching Project, content literacy academies).
5. Provide state-level guidance and training for schools to develop comprehensive literacy plans beginning in fall 2008.

In developing Kentucky's grant goals, KDE staff and partners analyzed national and state data, research and recommendations from national organizations. Regardless of the data source, the same conclusions can be reached about what needs to be done to advance the literacy skills of adolescent students. State literacy plans should include guidance for schools and districts on providing time, resources, and tools to build the capacity of educators to:

- Identify struggling readers early and provide interventions and supports
- Infuse literacy instruction throughout the curriculum
- Ensure the necessary training and supports to help teachers gain the knowledge and skills to provide effective, content-based literacy instruction
- Provide resources and dedicated staff at district and school levels (leadership teams, literacy coaches).

Kentucky's NASBE Timeline	
September 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene Adolescent Literacy Forum to gather needs and recommendations • Attend legislative luncheon hosted by KRA to gather needs and recommendations
October 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete analysis of feedback from forum and luncheon • Draft position statement as introduction to Kentucky's literacy plan

November 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaborate to analyze research and begin drafting the literacy plan• Present concept of the literacy plan to KRA board for feedback
December 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide overview of grant guidelines to KBE and analyze KCLC connections• Finalize draft of the literacy plan
January 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Present the literacy plan to taskforce and work teams for input• Revise the literacy plan
February 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Present literacy plan recommendations to KBE for input
March 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Revise the literacy plan
April 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Present revised literacy plan to KBE
June 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finalize all grant-funded work